

118TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 9235

To direct the Secretary of Defense to conduct a study and submit to Congress a report on strategic ports, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 30, 2024

Mr. WITTMAN (for himself, Mr. GIMENEZ, and Mr. AUCHINCLOSS) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To direct the Secretary of Defense to conduct a study and submit to Congress a report on strategic ports, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Strategic Ports Re-
5 porting Act of 2024”.

1 **SEC. 2. DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE STUDY AND REPORT ON**
2 **STRATEGIC PORTS.**

3 (a) STUDY REQUIRED.—The Secretary of Defense
4 shall conduct a study of—

5 (1) strategic ports;

6 (2) the reasons such ports are of interest to the
7 United States;

8 (3) the activities and plans of the Government
9 of the People’s Republic of China to expand its con-
10 trol over strategic ports outside of the People’s Re-
11 public of China;

12 (4) the public and private actors, such as China
13 Ocean Shipping Company, that are executing and
14 supporting the activities and plans of the Govern-
15 ment of the People’s Republic of China to expand its
16 control over strategic ports outside of the People’s
17 Republic of China;

18 (5) the activities and plans of the Government
19 of the People’s Republic of China to expand its con-
20 trol over maritime logistics by promoting products,
21 such as LOGINK, and setting industry standards
22 outside the People’s Republic of China;

23 (6) how the control by the Government of the
24 People’s Republic of China over strategic ports out-
25 side of the People’s Republic of China could harm
26 the national security or economic interests of the

1 United States and allies and partners of the United
2 States; and

3 (7) measures the United States Government
4 could take to ensure open access and security for
5 strategic ports.

6 (b) CONDUCT OF STUDY.—The Secretary of Defense
7 may enter into an arrangement with a federally funded
8 research and development center under which the center
9 shall conduct the study required under subsection (a).

10 (c) REPORT.—

11 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year
12 after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Sec-
13 retary of Defense shall submit to the appropriate
14 congressional committees a report on the findings of
15 the study conducted under subsection (a).

16 (2) ELEMENTS.—The report required by para-
17 graph (1) shall include—

18 (A) a detailed list of all known strategic
19 ports operated, controlled, or owned, directly or
20 indirectly, by the People’s Republic of China
21 and an assessment of the national security and
22 economic interests relevant to each such port;

23 (B) a detailed list of all known strategic
24 ports operated, controlled, or owned, directly or
25 indirectly, by the United States and an assess-

1 ment of the national security and economic in-
2 terests relevant to each such port;

3 (C) an assessment of vulnerabilities of—

4 (i) ports operated, controlled, or
5 owned, directly or indirectly, by the United
6 States; and

7 (ii) strategic ports;

8 (D) an analysis of the activities and ac-
9 tions of the Government of the People’s Repub-
10 lic of China to gain control or ownership over
11 strategic ports, including promoting products,
12 such as LOGINK, and setting industry stand-
13 ards;

14 (E) an assessment of how the Government
15 of the People’s Republic of China plans to ex-
16 pand its control over strategic ports outside of
17 the People’s Republic of China;

18 (F) a suggested strategy, developed in con-
19 sultation with the heads of the relevant United
20 States Government offices, that suggests
21 courses of action to secure trusted investment
22 and ownership of strategic ports and maritime
23 infrastructure, to protect such ports and infra-
24 structure from the control of the Government of
25 the People’s Republic of China, and to ensure

1 open access and security for such ports, that in-
2 cludes—

3 (i) a list of relevant existing authori-
4 ties that can be used to carry out the
5 strategy;

6 (ii) a list of any additional authorities
7 necessary to carry out the strategy;

8 (iii) an assessment of products owned
9 by the Government of the People’s Repub-
10 lic of China or an entity affiliated with
11 such government that are used in connec-
12 tion with strategic ports or maritime infra-
13 structure;

14 (iv) an assessment of costs to secure
15 trusted investment and ownership of stra-
16 tegic ports and replace products owned by
17 the Government of the People’s Republic of
18 China or an entity affiliated with such gov-
19 ernment that are used in connection with
20 such ports; and

21 (v) a list of funding sources to secure
22 trusted investment and ownership of stra-
23 tegic ports, which shall include—

24 (I) an identification of private
25 funding sources; and

1 (II) an identification of public
2 funding sources, including loans, loan
3 guarantees, and tax incentives; and

4 (G) a suggested strategy for Federal agen-
5 cies to maintain an up-to-date list of strategic
6 ports.

7 (3) FORM OF REPORT.—The report required by
8 paragraph (1) shall be submitted in unclassified
9 form, but may include a classified annex.

10 (d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

11 (1) The term “appropriate congressional com-
12 mittees” means—

13 (A) the Committee on Commerce, Science,
14 and Transportation, the Committee on Armed
15 Services, and the Select Committee on Intel-
16 ligence of the Senate; and

17 (B) the Committee on Transportation and
18 Infrastructure, the Committee on Energy and
19 Commerce, the Committee on Armed Services,
20 and the Permanent Select Committee on Intel-
21 ligence of the House of Representatives.

22 (2) The term “relevant United States Govern-
23 ment offices” means—

24 (A) the Unified Combatant Commands;

25 (B) the Office of the Secretary of Defense;

1 (C) the United States International Devel-
2 opment Finance Corporation;

3 (D) the Export-Import Bank of the United
4 States;

5 (E) the Office of the Director of National
6 Intelligence; and

7 (F) the Maritime Administration of the
8 Department of Transportation.

9 (3) The term “strategic port” means an inter-
10 national port or waterway that the heads of the rel-
11 evant United States Government offices determine is
12 critical to the national security or economic pros-
13 perity of the United States.

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